

*On the Origin of Species.* By J. GWYN JEFFREYS, Esq.

At the last Meeting of the British Association, held at Oxford, Mr. Gwyn Jeffreys exhibited in the Natural History Section several specimens of *Buccinum undatum*, each of which had a double operculum,—in one instance a second or supplementary operculum being piled on the usual one, and in the others there being two separate opercula, instead of one, in each Whelk. Mr. Jeffreys adverted briefly to the different kinds of monstrosity which occur in animals and plants, and said he believed this to be the first case of a similar monstrosity in the Mollusca. He observed that the monstrosity under consideration appeared to be congenital, and not to have arisen from an accidental loss of the original organ, because in some of the specimens both opercula were cases of hypertrophy, and in the others of atrophy; and he mentioned that all the specimens came from the same place (Sandgate, in Kent), showing a repetition, and perhaps a hereditary transmission, of the same abnormal phænomenon; and he suggested that thus permanent varieties might in course of time be formed, and constitute what some naturalists would call “distinct species.” He adduced, in support of this view, the case of a reversed monstrosity of the common Garden Snail (*Helix aspersa*) having been bred for many years in succession by the late M. d’Orbigny, in his garden at Rochelle, as well as many instances of a reversed form of Almond Whelk (*Fusus antiquus*) having occurred in the same localities on the coasts of England and Portugal, such being the normal form in the Crag.

*On the Habit of Notopteris Macdonaldii, Gray.*

By JOHN MACGILLIVRAY, Esq.

This curious Bat, which does not correspond sufficiently with the characters of any genus I have access to—coming nearest, however, to *Macroglossus* or *Kiodotus*—inhabits a deep, narrow, and very high cavern communicating with the sea, at the south-east corner of this island. I twice paid visits to this spot, but could not effect an entrance either by land or water: this can only be done during a dead calm, at low water, spring tides. A few days ago the specimen in the bottle was brought me: it had been found dead that morning under a banana in blossom, where it had probably been feeding during the night. The natives had previously told me that the Negrei Putegêtho (as they call it) is fond of resorting at night to the banana blossoms.

Anciteum, July 1859.

PENTACRINUS FISHERI,

described by Mr. Baily in our last Number, was erroneously stated to have been found in the Kimmeridge Clay: it should have been the *Oxford Clay* of Weymouth.